

Energy bills misery, flood devastation and the moon's marvel

The spiralling cost of living has been an increasingly urgent topic of conversation in the UK. But for many people, huge rises in energy prices are about to turn a difficult situation into an impossible one. Political inertia, caused by a lengthy Conservative leadership contest, has only added to a deepening sense of national frustration.

The likely new British prime minister, Liz Truss, has spent the summer promising tax cuts to her Tory party supporters - but her pitch may soon be upended by a crisis demanding urgent financial intervention from the government. We survey the stark consequences for Britain, while economics editor Larry Elliott says Europe must look to history in response to the crisis.

The big story *Page 10* →

In Pakistan, devastating flooding caused by unusually strong monsoon rains have affected more than 33 million people and caused well over 1,000 deaths. As the government declares a "climate catastrophe", our correspondent in Islamabad, Shah Meer Baloch, speaks to victims who have lost everything.

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The launch of Nasa's Artemis 1 lunar mission was delayed this week by an engine failure. But fear not - we can take you there by simply turning to page 34, where you'll find stunningly remastered versions of the original photographs of the Apollo moon missions, with a commentary by the British astronaut Tim Peake.

Then, on page 49, there's a thought-provoking editorial about the continued value to humanity of space travel. Do you agree? We'd love to hear your thoughts on our letters page. To the features section, and beyond ...

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On the cover
The squeeze on European gas supplies, largely as a consequence of Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, has led to a near-doubling of energy prices in the UK, with even worse predicted for next year. From support charities to small businesses, we look at the serious ramifications for people already feeling the pain of high inflation.

Illustration: Guardian Design

SPOT ILLUSTRATIONS:
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